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City history club of New York.

No. 2.  
Excursion... Greenwich village  
and Lispenard's meadows (revised)



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Book 37  
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EXCURSION  
PLANNED FOR THE  
CITY HISTORY CLUB  
OF  
NEW YORK  
BY  
FRANK BERGEN KELLEY, A. M., Ph. D.  
No. II—GREENWICH VILLAGE AND LISPENARD'S  
MEADOWS (Revised).

(15th Street to Chambers Street, West of Broadway).



PRICE, 5 CENTS.

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Excursion No. II (revised) should be used in connection with the City History Club Plan of New York in the English Period (1760) in addition to the three maps at the end of this itinerary. Excursions Nos. I and VI connect with points south, and No. III with points east of Broadway.

The following are recommended as short works of reference: Todd's "Story of the City of New York" (Putnam); "Historic New York" ("Half Moon Series"), especially "Old Greenwich," "Annetje Jans' Farm" and "Old Wells and Water Courses" (Putnam); Hemstreet's "Nooks and Corners of Old New York" (Scribner); Ulmann's "Landmark History of New York" (Appleton); Janvier's "In Old New York" (Harper); Tyler's reproductions of famous local maps and illustrations (Dunreath Publishing Co., 46 Wall Street); City History Club publications (see last page).

Since the best authorities differ as to exact localities of many historic events, there is much room for error in a work of this kind, and the writer will be pleased to receive criticisms and additions, especially if authorities are quoted.

## INTRODUCTION.

The original shore line of this section was just west of Greenwich Street, which was a shore road to Greenwich Village, possibly succeeding an old Indian path.

The "Annetje (Anneke) Jans' Farm," granted in 1635 to Roelof Jannsen, consisted of 62 acres lying between the present Warren and Canal Streets, west of Broadway (see map II). Roelof's widow, Annetje, married Dominie Bogardus, whence the later name—the Bogardus Farm or the Dominie's Bouwerie. It was sold to Gov. Lovelace in 1670, confiscated by the Duke of York in 1674, and called successively the Duke's Farm, the King's Farm and the Queen's Farm, until, in 1705, Queen Anne granted it in perpetuity to Trinity Church, when it was called the Church Farm. Most of it is still Trinity property except the portions ceded by the corporation to the city for streets and St. John's Park.

The Kalch Hoek (Chalkie Hook) was a promontory projecting into a swampy region just east and northeast of the Farm, which was finally drained about 1730 by Anthony Rutgers. His daughter married Leonard Lispenard, whence the names Lispenard's (Lepner's) Meadows, Lispenard and Leonard Streets. A canal, constructed through these meadows on the line of Canal Street, after the City Plan of 1807 was adopted, drained the Collect Pond which was at Center Street. The "Old Jans Farm" of Jans Celes lay north of Canal Street and just beyond was the

“Zandtberg” or sand hills, forming the southern boundary of a far more healthful region than the swampy land below.

Lower Greenwich was a little settlement at the foot of Spring Street and Upper Greenwich at the foot of Christopher Street. Greenwich proper contained the oldest settlement of white men on Manhattan except that formed around Fort Amsterdam. Its boundaries are, roughly, the North River, West 14th Street and the line of the Minetta Brook (the east branch of which rose in Madison Square, crossed Washington Square, ran through the line of Minetta and Downing Streets, and emptied into the North River just north of Charlton Street).

The original Greenwich was, however, of much smaller compass, consisting of a few houses located near the old Indian village of Sappokanican, where Gansevoort Market is now located. It was the West India Company’s Farm No. III, or the Bossen Bouwerie (Farm in the Woods). Here, in 1633, Gov. Van Twiller established a tobacco plantation often known by its old Indian name. Because of its healthfulness and fertility, it was a popular place of settlement. It received the name of Greenwich in the early part of the eighteenth century. Among the early residents of prominence were Captain, later Admiral, Sir Peter Warren, Oliver De Lancey (Warren’s brother-in-law), Commissary Mortier, Wm. Bayard and James Jauncey.

During the early part of the nineteenth century this section of the city became a refuge from the plagues of yellow fever and cholera, and was rapidly built up.

The dovetailing of the new city plan of 1807-11 on the old line of streets in Greenwich Village gave rise to some curious complications, such as the crossing of 10th and 11th Streets by 4th Street, etc. This new plan, together with changes about Washington Square, brought Greenwich into closer union with the rest of the city, although its individuality is still very marked.

## EXCURSION No. II.

### GREENWICH VILLAGE AND LISPENARD'S MEADOWS.

*(The letters refer to Map I at the end.)*

#### SECTION I. WASHINGTON SQUARE AND STREETS NORTH OF WEST 10TH STREET.

A. **Washington Square.** Made a park, 1827; Potter's Field, 1789-1823; **New York University** (Washington Square East), former building erected 1830, scene of Stone Cutters' riot and inventions of Morse and Draper; gave name to University Place. See statues of **Garibaldi** and **Holley**; **Washington Arch**, erected 1889, to commemorate the anniversary of Washington's inauguration.

Washington Mews (north of Waverly and west of University Place). "Mews" is an English term denoting a rear alley for stables, etc. (Skeat's Dictionary).

Eighth street was formerly called Clinton Place. "Art Street" or Astor place and "Monument Lane," now Greenwich Avenue, met in Washington Square.

Note difference in the method of laying out and designating the streets north and south of Washington Square.

*Go west on Washington Place.*

B. **Old house**, 135 Washington Place.

*Go east on Grove street to Waverly Place.*

C. **Christopher Street Park.** The **Northern Dispensary**, once a Presbyterian Church, was built in 1802 and rebuilt 1827-31. The Herring Farm lay between Bleecker Street and Waverly Place, Christopher (formerly called **Skinner Road**, later Herring Street) and West 4th Street.

*Go through Gay Street.*

Note old houses here and at 11 Christopher Street.

**D. Jefferson Market** (" New Greenwich Market "): market, court, prison; home of Exempt Firemen's Organization, in whose rooms may be seen a very interesting exhibit of old fire apparatus, pictures, etc.

*Go up east side of 6th Avenue to 11th Street.*

**E. Second Beth Haim** (" Place of Rest "), established here 1729 and partially removed in 1830 to the southwest corner of 6th Avenue and 21st Street. The old " **Grapevine** " adjoining was once a popular roadhouse. 11th Street (called " Hammond Street " west of Sixth Avenue) was opened in 1830. At 33 West 11th Street the rear building marks the line of the old Union Road joining Skinner Road (Christopher Street) and Southampton Road (Gansevoort Street); see the old cistern and chimney. The walls of 28-36 and 49 West 13th Street and 43-45 West 12th Street mark the line of the Union Road.

*Go down the west side of 6th Avenue.*

Note the slant of the buildings at Milligan Place, formerly " Milligan's Lane," connecting " Amos " or West 10th Street with the Union Road (between 10th and 11th Streets). See Patchin Place, opposite Jefferson Market.

*Go west on West 10th Street.*

See old houses at 129 and 131, covered with wistaria vines.

Greenwich Avenue (" Monument Lane ") led to an

**F. Obelisk to Gen. Wolfe** (hero of Quebec, 1759), located near 15th Street and Eighth Avenue.

*Go north on West 4th Street.*

**G. Site of Warren House** (home of Captain, later Admiral, Sir Peter Warren) on block bounded by West 4th, Charles, Bleecker and Perry Streets.

*Go west on Bank Street.*

**Bank Street** was so called from the banks located here during the yellow fever epidemic of 1799.

**H. Abingdon Square** was named for the Countess of Abingdon, Admiral Warren's daughter. Eighth Avenue was the original " Fitzroy Road " which was named for Warren's son-in-law, created Baron Southampton 1780.

*Go north on Hudson Street (Eighth Avenue) to Horatio Street.*

**I. Jackson Park**, the popular square of this neighborhood. See old houses at 13-19 and 35 Horatio Street.

*Go up Greenwich and west on Gansevoort Street.*

Gansevoort Street was once called "Great Kiln Road" or "Southampton Road" after Baron Southampton. The Gansevoort House was at 92-94.

**K. Gansevoort Market**; Site of Sappokanican ("carrying place"), the Indian village where Hudson is supposed to have anchored in 1609 and of Fort Gansevoort which was torn down about 1851. The original Greenwich is said to have started in this vicinity. (See Introduction.)

*Take West Street car going south.*

## SECTION II. BETWEEN WEST TENTH AND SPRING STREETS.

**L. Site of 1st New York State Prison** (foot of West 10th Street), built in 1796; removed to Sing Sing 1829; the foundation stones are said to have been incorporated in the walls of the brewery now on the spot. "Greenwich Hotel" was near the prison in 1811; stages went from this point to Federal Hall five times a day.

On November 4, 1825, the **Erie Procession** stopped at the foot of West 10th Street, where it was met by the city officials and escorted to the Navy Yard. Log rafts were formerly anchored off shore, and a market was located here in 1804.

**M. Old houses on Weehawken Street**, possibly built before 1767 (see Rätzen Map). One of the houses was once the station of the Hudson River R. R. The blocks between Greenwich, West 10th and Christopher Streets will form the terminal for the N. Y. and N. J. R. R. Co.'s Tunnel.

*Go east on West 10th Street.*

See old houses at 248 (rear alley), 246, 238 and 236 West 10th Street.

*Go back to Hudson Street and south to Grove Street.*

**N. St. Luke's** (a chapel of Trinity) was built here 1821-24; the new St. Luke's is at 141st Street and Convent Avenue, adjoining Hamilton

Grange. The building next door to the old chapel was a Home for Aged Couples, now at West 112th Street.

O. The old **Grove Street School** is the third oldest public school in New York.

*Go east on Grove Street.*

Grove Street ("Cozine," "Columbia," "Burrows") was widened and partly straightened in 1836.

P. Site of house where **Tom Paine died** in 1809, 59 Grove Street. Barrow Street was called Reason Street (later "Raisin Street) in honor of Paine's "Age of Reason" by the commissioners who laid out the City Plan of 1807. Their office was at the corner of Bleecker and Christopher Streets. Paine lived for a time with Mme. Bonneville at the site of 293 (or 309) Bleecker Street.

*Go down Bleecker Street and west on Commerce Street.*

Washington Irving's sister lived at 15 Commerce Street. The old Broderick House is at the southwest corner of Barrow Street.

*Go back to Bleecker Street and down to Bedford Street.*

See the old Methodist Church (original building erected 1810, rebuilt 1840) and old store opposite.

*Go west on Leroy Street.*

R. **Hudson Park** occupies the site of St. John's Cemetery, which was converted into a park in 1898. See the Firemen's Monument and tablets; the pool and fountain are in the French-Italian style of the 17th Century.

*Go east on Downing Street.*

See old style houses at 54, 59 and 61.

*Go up Minetta Street and west on Minetta Lane to Sixth Avenue.*

These names are derived from the **Minetta Water**, or Minetta Brook (see Introduction).

*Go down Bleecker to Hancock Street.*

Hancock Street was once called Cottage Place, from the cottage-like houses with deep yards, some of which still front on this street. Anne Stephens once lived here.

*Go down Hancock and Congress Streets to King Streets.*

See old houses at 56 and 58 King Street.

S. Site of **Richmond Hill** (on block bounded by King, McDougal Charlton and Varick Streets), built by Abraham Mortier, Commissary of the English army in 1760, and occupied by Lord Amherst, Sir Wm. Carleton, Washington (1776), Vice-President Adams (1789) and Aaron Burr. The Indians called this "Ishpatanau," or bad hill.

*Go down King Street to Varick Street.*

See old houses at 173 Varick Street and at the corner of Spring and Varick, Spring and McDougal and Dominick and Clark Streets.

Spring Street (formerly Brannon Street) was so called from the natural well which was the scene of an early tragedy. In 1755 **Brannon Garden** occupied the corner at Spring and Hudson Streets, the neighborhood being known as **Lower Greenwich**. The Spring Street Presbyterian Church (built 1825) near Varick Street is on the site of the original building erected 1811.

*Go south to Canal Street.*

### SECTION III. SOUTH OF CANAL STREET.

**Canal Street:** line of the canal draining the Collect Pond. The sewer now carries the drainage of the original springs in the middle of the island. See old houses on the triangular block bounded by Canal, Laight and Varick Streets.

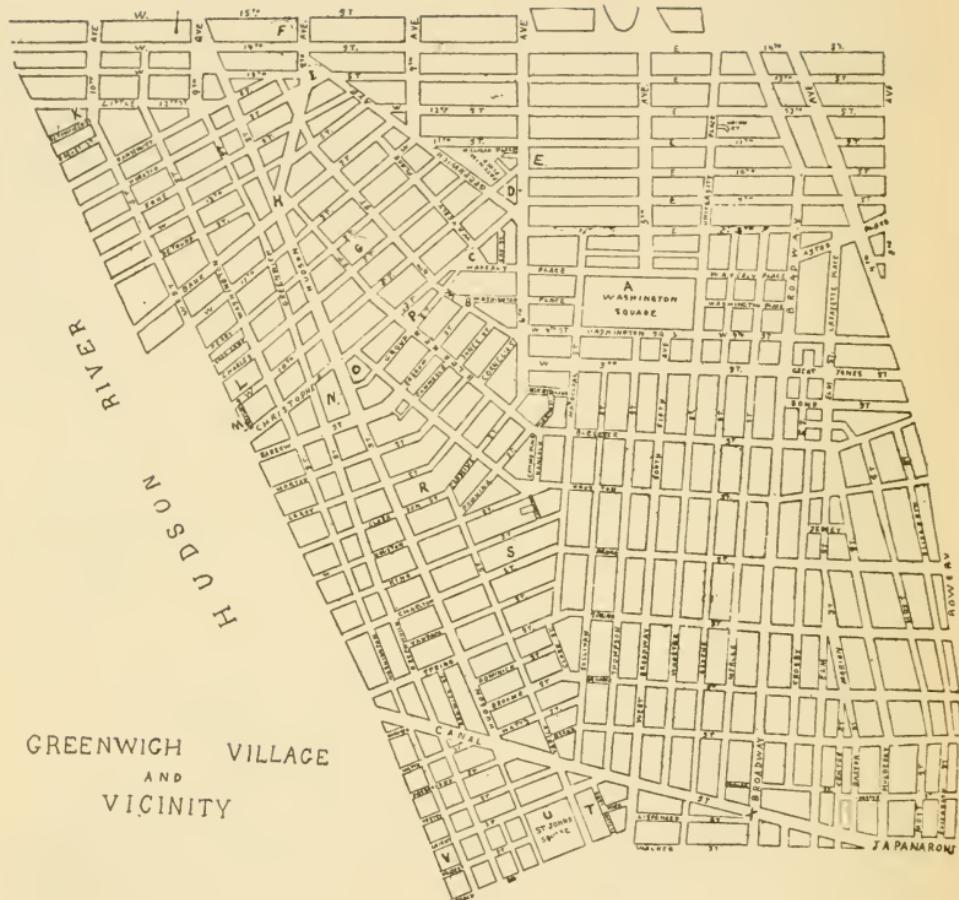
X. Site of the original **bridge** crossing the canal at Broadway.

T. **St. John's Chapel**, built 1803-07, called "St. John's in the Fields," was once the center of a fashionable neighborhood. The key of the chapel may be obtained from the sexton at the house on the south. The galleries, columns and pulpit are original. The bell, clock and iron fence were brought from London.

U. Site of **St. John's Park**, laid out as a private park in 1821 and sold to the Hudson River R. R. for a freight station about 1865. Around the park lived Alexander Hamilton, General Schuyler and other prominent citizens. John Ericsson lived at the present 36 Beach Street. The small triangular park at Beach Street and West Broadway is the only green spot remaining of the **Annetje Jans Farm**.

Lispenard Street is a reminder of **Lispenard's Meadows** (see Introduction). The **Rutgers' Mansion** was at Thomas Street and Broadway, and about the middle of the Eighteenth Century became the center of **Ranelagh Garden**. The New York Hospital, completed 1775, occupied about the same site.

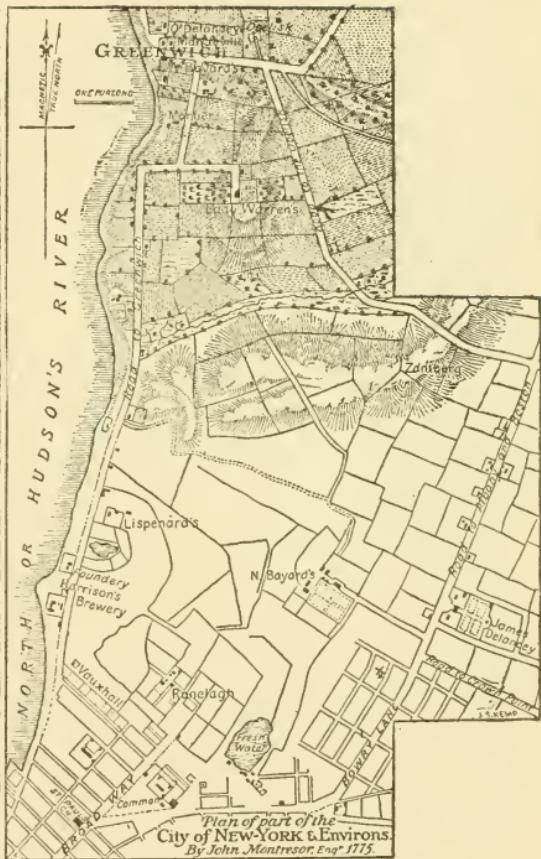
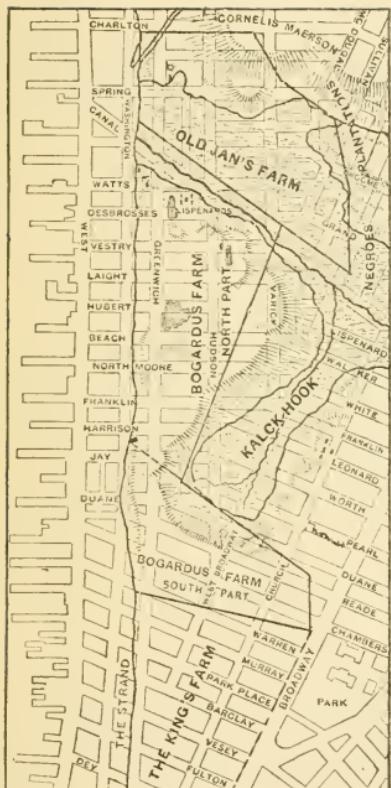
V. Site of **Washington's landing** in 1775, on West Street south of Laight Street, formerly marked by a bronze tablet. The **North Fort**, erected during the War of 1812 was located at the foot of Hubert Street.



MAP I (made for the City History Club of New York).

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- N. St. Luke's Chapel.
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MAP II.

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MAP III.

**OBJECT.**—“The City History Club has for its object the study of the history of the City of New York, in the hope of awakening an interest in its traditions and in the possibilities of its future, such educational work being for the improvement, uplifting and civic betterment of the community.”

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No. IV. Central Park to Van Cortlandt Park. (Revised with Maps.)

No. V. (Bicycle Excursion No. II.) McGown's Pass and upper Central Park.

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